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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Baltic)

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DATE DISTR. 17 November 1948

SUBJECT Military, Naval, and Air Installations along the Baltic Coast

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.Island of Saaremaa (Osel)

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1. Naval

- a. During August 1947, the Bay of Kihelkonna, on the west coast of Saaremaa, was the scene of Soviet naval maneuvers. During these maneuvers the units were stationed at the Tagalaht base.
- b. During June 1948, similar maneuvers were held in the same area.
- c. The harbor area of Tagalaht has become a permanent base for Soviet naval craft. The entire area has been declared a security zone and is strongly guarded from both land and sea approaches.
- d. All former harbors and harbor facilities on Saaremaa are in operation again.
- e. A naval air base has been installed at Karujärv (20 km. northwest of Kuresaare). Comment: An airfield was previously reported to be located on the eastern shore of Lake Kauru, west central Saaremaa.) About 20 planes are stationed there; they are believed to constitute a naval reconnaissance squadron. Another such base and a similar unit are located at Papisaare, about three km. from Kihelkonna.

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2. Coastal Defenses

- a. The coastal defenses on the west side of the island are described as being very strong. MVD troops and marines share the guard duty. Each unit has at its disposal patrol boats, searchlight facilities, trained dogs, and modern automatic weapons.
- b. Known patrol posts are located at the following points:
 - 1) Pannana (northern tip of Saaremaa)
 - 2) Panga Pank (northwest Saaremaa, seven km. northwest of Vohna)

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- 3) Undva nina (Hundsort)
- 4) Vilsandi Lighthouse
- 5) Rohe (SSW shore of Saaremaa, five km from Lumanda)
- 6) Lou (on Sörve Peninsula, Bay of Lou, three km from Kaugatuma).
- 7) Shore batteries of 210 mm. guns with permanent steel foundations have been erected at:

- a) Ninase Pank (nine km north of Mustjala, NNW part of island)
- b) Neeme (NNW of Kihelkonna)
- c) Sörve Peninsula
- d) Rohuste-Lope

- 8) Lorne Lighthouse (south tip of Saaremaa)

3. Military and Air

- a. In the summer of 1948, about one division of infantry troops was stationed on Saaremaa Island. About 100 (sic) medium and heavy tanks have been observed with this division.

- b. Army airfields are located at:

- 1) Marientali (three km. from Kuressaare)
- 2) Aste (14 km N of Kuressaare)
- 3) Somera (16 km. WNW of Kuressaare)
- 4) Monnuste (14 km. WNW of Kuressaare)

4. Security

It is reported that a special stamp is placed on the identity card of anyone communicating with Saaremaa Island. In order to visit Saaremaa, a special security permit issued at the militia headquarters in Tallinn is required. Travel on the island is hampered by restricted security zones.

Estonian Mainland

5. Naval

- a. The principal base of the southern Soviet Baltic fleet is located at Pillau with secondary bases at Lepaya (Libau), Klaipeda (Memel), and Ventspils. The northern Baltic fleet is principally based at Porkkala, Tagalahti, Tallinn, and Kronstadt.

- b. During July 1948, a Russian naval unit of 20 vessels visited Tallinn. The unit consisted of one cruiser, five submarines, destroyers, patrol craft, and torpedo boats. [REDACTED] another Russian unit consisting of one battleship, one heavy cruiser, and smaller vessels entered Tallin harbor.

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c. Tallinn harbor

- 1) Tallinn is reported to be the permanent base for the former German cruiser "Grunberg".
- 2) [REDACTED] 20 submarines were observed in the harbor.
- 3) Harbor air defenses are principally of 76.2 mm and 20 mm anti-aircraft batteries.
- 4) The military harbor of Tallinn is reported to be in full operation. All quays have been fully repaired and the depths increased. All shipwrecks have been cleared from the military area.
- 5) In the merchant shipping area the quays have been about 60 percent repaired. Approximately 200-300 workers are employed daily on this reconstruction.
- 6) On the tip of Kopli Peninsula, huge oil tanks have been placed underground. [REDACTED] Bay was being improved in 1946 so that it could accommodate submarines.)
7. The harbor facilities consist of 12 docks, including three floating docks (tonnage not given), and 15 cranes of 60-70-ton capacity.

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- d. Naval personnel in the Tallinn area number about 3,000-4,000 men. The naval headquarters building is located at the corner of Sakala and Pärnu Streets.
- e. Some naval aircraft are reported at Tallinn harbor. A naval air base is located at Lake Ulemiste, about 13 km south of Tallinn.
- f. The water between Ristna (western tip of Saaremaa) and Tallinn is reported to be heavily mined. Within this area 15 light buoys have been installed. The coordinates of these buoys are as follows:

Outside Tallinn harbor:

Buoys No. 11 and 12: 59° 30' 25" N
24° 32' 59" E

Off Suurupi Peninsula (13 nautical miles WNW of Tallin):

Buoys No. 9, 10, and one unnumbered: 59° 30' 25" N
24° 20' E

To the southwest:

Buoy No. 8:	59° 30'	N
	24° 10'	E
" " 7:	59° 27'	24" N
	23° 50'	E
" " 6:	59° 25'	N
	23° 30'	E
" " 5:	59° 22'	24" N
	23° 11'	E
" " 4:	59° 19'	48" N
	22° 41'	18" E
" " 3:	59° 17'	12" N
	22° 31'	42" E
" " 2:	59° 13'	36" N
	22° 14'	06" E
" " 1:	59° 10'	06" N
	21° 56'	48" E

Off Ristna:

North buoy at 59° 14' 42" N (sic)
22° 53' E

South buoy at 59° 05' N
21° 55' 30" E

- g. Baltiiki Port (Paldiski): The entire harbor area is a security zone. Intensive construction is taking place in the area, including building of many new barracks.
 - h. Pärnu: The harbor is in operation as a small base for patrol and torpedo boats. A naval air base is located at Lake Tehela, about 30 km. west of Pärnu.
6. Military
- a. Estonia is under the jurisdiction of the Soviet Tenth Army commanded by General Kosokov, with headquarters at Tallinn. Training installations are located at Tendi and Nõmme.

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b. Tallin area

- 1) At Manniku (11 km. south of Tallinn) there is a tank unit of about 100 T-34 tanks.
- 2) The largest infantry troop concentrations are reported to be at Aegviidu and Klaga.
- 3) Airfields are reported to be located at:
 - a) Lasnamagi: Fighter and bomber reconnaissance planes observed here.
 - b) Jagala (28 km. east of Tallinn): Field reported as 2,000 x 2,000 meters and in good condition; fighter planes observed.

c. Pärnu area

- 1) Two infantry divisions, including tank and heavy artillery units, are reported in the area.
- 2) Military headquarters for the area is located at Kuninga Street 13, Pärnu.
- 3) An airfield is located at Sauga (five km. north of Pärnu). Size: ca. 1,000 x 1,000 meters. Fighter and training planes are located there.

Latvia

7. Leņava (Libau) Harbor: All harbor installations are in operation, including six cranes, two drydocks, and one floating dock. Soviet naval vessels frequently visit the harbor. A number of submarines and torpedo boats are permanently assigned to this base.
8. A coastal defense point and lighthouse is located at Akmenrags.

Lithuania**9. Klaipeda (Memel) Harbor:**

- a. All quays have been repaired. Five rail and several self-moving cranes are in operation. Two dry-docks and three floating docks are in the harbor. Two large wharves have been completed in the area.
- b. A special ship specifically used for the purpose of lifting submarines from the water has been observed. The ship bears the name "Kommuna".
- c. Oil storage tanks are located two nautical miles south of Klaipeda.
- d. The sea approaches are guarded, at least in part, by 210 mm railway guns. One battery is located north of the delta area.

10. Near Klaipeda, minefields are marked by buoys located by the following coordinates:

55° 44' 06" N
20° 55' E
55° 51' N
19° 37' 30" E
56° 06' N
19° 22' E

Miscellaneous

11. The Russian battleship "Marat", heavily damaged during the war, is aground at Kronstadt. Deck and gun turrets are reported to be under water.

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